

## WRITTEN REPLY

To the Examiner of the Patent Office Mr. Masaya ITO

## 5 1. International Application No.

PCT/JP2004/017146

## 2. Applicant

10	Name	MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC INDUSTRIAL CO., LTD.
	Address	1006, Oaza Kadoma, Kadoma-shi, Osaka 571-8501 JAPAN
	Nationality	JAPAN
	Residence	JAPAN

## 15 3. Agent

	Name	IKEUCHI SATO & PARTNER PATENT ATTORNEYS
	Address	26th Floor, OAP TOWER, 8-30, Tenmabashi 1-chome, Kita-ku, Osaka-shi, Osaka 530-6026 JAPAN

20

## 4. Date of Notice

08. 02. 2005 (Mailing Date)

## 5. Contents of Reply

25 (1) The amendment to claim 2 is supported by the descriptions in paragraphs [0023] and [0024] and FIGs. 1B and 3B.

(2) The invention defined by claim 1 of the present application has a

configuration in which a thin film transistor is provided on a substrate and a display element unit is provided above the thin film transistor. With this configuration, the display element unit, a pixel electrode, and the like function as a block layer against moisture and oxygen entering from outside, resulting in a remarkable effect of providing protection without increasing the number of constituent members.

The invention defined by claim 2 of the present application has a configuration in which the pixel electrode has an area larger than that of the source electrode so as to cover the active layer on the source electrode substantially entirely. Therefore, it is possible to prevent moisture and the like from entering from sides of the active layer from around the pixel electrode.

The invention defined by claim 5 of the present application has a configuration in which the conductive film is formed so as to cover an entire surface of a display region. Therefore, it is possible to prevent moisture and the like from entering from an entire surface of the display apparatus.

(3) Cited Reference 1 discloses in FIG. 2, for example, a configuration in which a display element unit and a thin film transistor are laminated on a substrate in this order and a pixel electrode of the display element unit also functions as a drain electrode of the thin film transistor.

However, FIG. 2 only shows a cross section of a channel region in one pixel. Since Cited Reference 1 provides a matrix configuration as in FIG. 1, it is presumed that each pixel is independent and that the laminated body corresponding to one pixel as shown in FIG. 2 is formed on the substrate independently like an island.

(4) Cited Reference 2 discloses a specific configuration in FIG. 10, which is

similar to that of Cited Reference 1. In other words, a laminated body corresponding to one pixel is formed independently like an island.

(5) Compared with the invention of the present application, Cited  
5 References 1 and 2 do not have an object of protecting the active layer of the thin film transistor from moisture and oxygen entering from outside as in the invention of the present application.

Therefore, there is no positive motivation to laminate the units of Cited References 1 and 2 in inverse order to obtain the configuration of claim 1 of  
10 the present application. Further, since uniform luminance is required for the display element unit, it is desirable that the display element unit is formed of a smooth layer of uniform thickness. On this account, it is considered that a person skilled in the art would form the display element unit directly on the substrate.

15

(6) As described above, we believe that it would be impossible even for a person skilled in the art to easily think of the invention defined by claim 1 of the present application from Cited References 1 and 2.

20 (7) Further, in Cited References 1 and 2, it is presumed that the laminated body corresponding to one pixel is formed on the substrate independently like an island as described above. Thus, even if the units of Cited References 1 and 2 are laminated simply in inverse order, it is impossible to achieve the configuration of claim 2 of the present application in which the  
25 pixel electrode has an area larger than that of the active layer so as to cover the source electrode substantially entirely. Accordingly, it is impossible to obtain the effect of claim 2 of the present application against the entry of moisture and oxygen into the active layer from outside. Further, it is also

impossible to obtain the configuration in which the conductive film to be a common electrode is formed so as to cover the entire surface of the display region. Thus, we believe that the effect of claim 5 of the present application is not achieved.

5

## 6. List of attached documents

(1) Amendment	1 set
---------------	-------